

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): A management system, connected to a communication line, for managing maintenance of a plurality of printing apparatus apparatuses, comprising[[]];

a reception unit that receives a first ID for specifying a first printing ~~device~~ apparatus having use history information showing that the first printing apparatus was managed and a second ID for specifying a second printing device apparatus as a new ~~device~~ apparatus to be managed, the first ID and the second ID being different from each other and being transmitted via the communication line;

a search unit that searches for first information related to a contract corresponding to the first ID received by said reception unit; and

a generation unit that generates second information related to a contract for the second printing device apparatus to be newly managed, based on the first information searched for by said search unit.

2. (previously presented). A managing system according to claim 1, wherein said generation unit further generates display information for displaying the second information generated by said generation unit and further comprises a transmission unit that transmits the generated display information via the communication line.

3. - 43. (canceled).

44. A method according to claim [[26]] 45, wherein said generating step comprises generating display information for displaying the generated second information, and wherein said method further comprises a transmission step [[of]] for transmitting the generated display information via the communication line.

45. (new): An information processing method used in a management system, connected to a communication line, for managing maintenance of a plurality of printing apparatuses, the method comprising:

a reception step for receiving a first ID for specifying a first printing apparatus having use history information showing that the first printing apparatus was managed and a second ID for specifying a second printing apparatus as a new apparatus to be managed, the first ID and the second ID being different from each other and being transmitted via the communication line;

a search step for searching for first information related to a contract corresponding to the first ID received in said reception step; and

a generation step for generating second information related to a contract for the second printing apparatus to be newly managed, based on the first information searched for in said search step.

46. (new): A computer-readable memory medium storing program codes to be executed by a management system, connected to a communication line, for managing maintenance of a plurality of printing apparatuses, the program codes comprising:

a reception step for receiving a first ID for specifying a first printing apparatus having use history information showing that the first printing apparatus was managed and a second ID for specifying a second printing apparatus as a new apparatus to be managed, the first ID and the second ID being different from each other and being transmitted via the communication line;

a search step for searching for first information related to a contract corresponding to the first ID received in said reception step; and

a generation step for generating second information related to a contract for the second printing apparatus to be newly managed, based on the first information searched for in said search step.

47. (new): A program, stored, in executable form, in a computer-readable storage medium, to be executed by a management system, connected to a communication line, for managing maintenance of a plurality of printing apparatuses, the program comprising:

a reception step for receiving a first ID for specifying a first printing apparatus having use history information showing that the first printing apparatus was managed and a second ID for specifying a second printing apparatus as a new apparatus to

be managed, the first ID and the second ID being different from each other and being transmitted via the communication line;

a search step for searching for first information related to a contract corresponding to the first ID received in said reception step; and

a generation step for generating second information related to a contract for the second printing apparatus to be newly managed, based on the first information searched for in said search step.